

Indianapolis News Mechanical Building
30 West Court Street
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-222

HABS

IND,

49-IND,

36 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS MECHANICAL BUILDING

HABS No. IN-222

HABS
IND,
49-IND
36-

Location:

30 West Court Street
Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

USGS Indianapolis West, Indiana Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinator
16.572020.4401100

Significance:

The Indianapolis News Mechanical Building was constructed in 1896 and enlarged with the addition of the two top floors sometime between 1909 and 1913. The Indianapolis architectural firm of R.P. Daggett and Company designed the original 1896 building. The building is significant for its architectural, commercial, and communications/newspapers association with the Indianapolis News Company founded in 1869 and for its physical location adjacent to the Indianapolis News Building of 1909-10 listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 1, 1984.

Description:

The Indianapolis News Mechanical Building is situated on the northeast corner of West Court Street and Bird Street in the southwestern quadrant of Monument Circle. It abuts the mechanical section of the Journal Building (HABS No. IN-213). Directly south, across Court Street is the Indianapolis News Building, now the Goodman Jewelry Company Building. The Mechanical Building is four stories high with a raised basement. The main elevations front the alleys Court (south) and Bird (west) Streets. The west facade is eleven bays wide; the south, six bays. The details and fenestration patterns are the same on both main elevations. The building is of steel frame construction with brick fireproofing. The northeast end is three and one-third bays long and two bays wide. The south end is two bays long on the east, four bays long on the west, and two bays wide. The floor slabs are typically ten-foot concrete slabs. The fourth floor mezzanines are wood and steel framing with a concrete topping slab.

The elevation of the raised basement level is composed of segmented-arched windows. The northern most bay on the west facade and the eastern most bay on the south facade accommodate a recessed entrance bay open from grade to the full first story. The entrance has double-leaf metal doors flush with the facade.

The fenestration pattern on the west facade has been disrupted at the fourth and fifth bays north of the corner. At one time an entrance had been cut and subsequently has been bricked-up. All of the basement level windows have been bricked up. The first floor windows all have limestone sills, segmented arches, and steel security shutters. Behind the shutters are double-hung wooden sash windows. At the level of the fourth brick course below the arches is a decorative band on both facades. It consists of a raking brick course with terra cotta tiles decorated with a star motif. Between the first and second floors is a brickwork and limestone belt.

The second floor fenestration pattern is identical to that of the first floor. All of the windows are filled-in with concrete blocks. Some of these window openings accommodate small wooden sash windows. Between the second and third floors is a brickwork cornice with raking course and corbel table. Directly above this cornice are two ocular vents on each facade. These vents have iron grates.

The third and fourth stories were added after the original building was built. The five northern third floor bays of the west facade have full-length windows; the remaining bays are half-sized, all with segmented arches. On the south facade, all the third floor windows are half-sized. At this level is a corrugated metal bridge connecting the Indianapolis News building to the south. The bridge enters the facade at the fifth bay from the corner. The fourth floor has segmented arched windows. The building is crowned by a brickwork cornice. The roof is a built-up, flat roof with saw-tooth monitor skylights.

The north elevation side towards Monument Circle, has three bays with two windows in each. The windows have segmented arches and double-hung sashes on the first through third floors. The east side consists of unfinished brickwork and several blocked up openings. The extant windows have double-hung sashes. Most of this wall was exposed when its abutting neighbor was destroyed.

The interior space is generally unaltered except for the removal of portions of the first floor creating large open areas combining the raised basement level and the first floor. Throughout the building, the

walls and structural frame members are plastered. Portions of the flooring of each story are concrete and wood. The fourth floor has exposed heat and ventilation ducts. These ducts are of sheet metal and are suspended from the ceiling. Some interior wooden doors, wall partitions, and hardware are extant. The stairwell has been enclosed with concrete blocks.

HISTORY:

The Indianapolis News Mechanical Building is significant for its architectural, commercial, and communications/newspapers association with the Indianapolis News Company founded in 1869 and for its physical location adjacent to the Indianapolis News Building of 1909-10 listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 1, 1984. As the city's first evening paper, The Indianapolis News (the building's first occupant), has contributed significantly to the commerce and communications/newspapers areas of the economic development of Indianapolis. The Indianapolis News was founded on December 7, 1869 as the city's first evening paper by John Holliday (1846-1921), then a young reporter for the Indianapolis Sentinel. The Indianapolis News has been significant in the commercial development of Indianapolis and for its long historical role as one of the city's leading newspapers. Holliday's fledgling enterprise was based on three innovative concepts. The first was a totally independent editorial policy approach, addressing the issues of the day directly and with a definite stand without political alignment. The second concept was low cost (two cents an issue) which made The Indianapolis News the first two-cent newspaper west of Pittsburgh. And thirdly, Holliday insisted on the fastest publication of current news possible. Posted on the street level office windows, an "Extra" was published the evening of December 6 before the first edition of December 7, when General Grant delivered an address to Congress a day earlier than scheduled.

The Indianapolis News grew steadily and by 1880 it moved from East Market Street to the 1848 Temperance Hall at 30-32 West Washington. In 1892 the circulation was 25,000, when Holliday sold the paper to William Henry Smith ten-year manager of the Associated Press in Chicago, his son, Delavan, and his brother-in-law, Charles N. Williams, a former editorial writer for the Atlantic Monthly. Smith made Williams editor of The Indianapolis News. When Smith died in 1896, his son, Delavan, took control of the paper from his bachelor home in Lake Forest, Illinois. Under Delavan Smith, the newspaper continued to grow. Following Holliday's original policy of facing the issues head-on, it actively and loudly questioned the construction of the Panama Canal, which so infuriated President Theodore Roosevelt that in 1909 Smith and The Indianapolis News were sued for libel. The paper successfully fought back and the suit was dropped, but the historic decision became an important precedent in later United States libel suits.

Delavan was a cousin of Charles Warren Fairbanks, a former Vice-President under Theodore Roosevelt and Senator from Indiana. In 1918, when Fairbanks died, it was revealed publically that the Fairbanks estate owned a substantial interest in the ownership of the newspaper. Upon Delavan Smith's death in 1922, the Fairbanks heirs bought complete control and hired Warren C. Fairbanks as publisher. During the Fairbanks era, the city editor, Walter McCarty, won the 1932 Pulitzer Prize for his 18-month campaign to eliminate wasteful government spending at all levels in Indiana.

In 1948 Eugene C. Pulliam purchased the controlling interest in The Indianapolis News from the Fairbanks family, and immediately began consolidation with the city's morning paper, The Indianapolis Star. As new publisher, Pulliam moved The Indianapolis News out of 30 West Washington Street in September, 1949, thus ending some 45 years of printing, composing, typesetting, etc. of The Indianapolis News.

In August 1949, Goodman Jewelers purchased the Indianapolis News Building and the Mechanical Building. Goodman has used the Mechanical Building as a warehouse and as a factory and repair shop. The Mechanical Building, though it was built as an ancillary building to the Indianapolis News Building on Washington Street, was built as an independent structure with its own design, function and address. West Court Street was one of the busy commercial alleys in the Mile Square. Lots 12 and 13 of Square 55 on which the Mechanical Building was constructed in 1896 have always been prime real estate in the commercial development of Indianapolis. The 1887 Sanborn Insurance Maps of Indianapolis shows this site occupied by a two-story brick livery building operated by James A. Wilson and Timothy Splan (misspelled Plann) which served not only the Hotel Brunswick on Monument Circle but also the other numerous commercial businesses in this quadrant including the V.M. Backus Carriage Manufacturing Company adjacent to the Hotel Brunswick. Square 55 was a vital commercial district in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century as it is still today. The Mechanical Building was built on this site at 30 West Court Street because the Indianapolis News Company occupied the building immediately across Court Street in the old Temperance Hall at 30-32 West Washington Street. This building was demolished in 1909 in order to construct the neo-Gothic style, ten-story office structure which was completed and occupied in 1910. The livery building was demolished to construct the Mechanical Building. The 1898 Sanborn-Perris Insurance Maps of Indianapolis records a two-story building with basement of fireproof construction brick structure operated by The Indianapolis News with composing operations in the basement, pressroom on the first floor, and editorial department on the second, third and fourth floors added in 1904. The Mechanical Building was operated continuously on this site from 1896 until 1949 when all The Indianapolis News operations were moved to North Pennsylvania Street. Goodman Jewelers used this building for its design and manufacturing department since it purchased the structure in 1949.

The Mechanical Building was specifically built to house the printing presses, lineotype machines, etching and stereotyping departments in 1896. It predates the historic ten-story Indianapolis News office building by thirteen years. The prominent Indianapolis architectural firm of R.P. Daggett and Company was chosen to design the building. According to the 1896 publication,

Indianapolis of To-Day, R.P. Daggett & Company ranked with the leading architects of the state. The article listed some of the public buildings and commercial structures including the Lemcke Building, the Lombard Building, Wrights' Market Street Block, Exchange Block, Dean Brothers Steam Pump Works, Eli Lilly & Company Laboratory, William B. Burford Co. Printing Factory (HABS No. IN-218), Fire Department Headquarters and eight fire engine houses.

The firm occupied four rooms on the fifth floor of the Marion Block designed by them. An advertisement in Polk's Indianapolis City Directory of 1895 boasted the "cost of buildings erected after our plans during the last twenty-five years, NEARLY SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS." R.P. Daggett died in 1915. His son, Robert Frost Daggett, continued the firm's practice which was still in business in 1953. His son, Robert Frost, Jr., was an architect with the firm at the time. The Mechanical Building represents an important early surviving example of this historically significant Indianapolis architectural firm.

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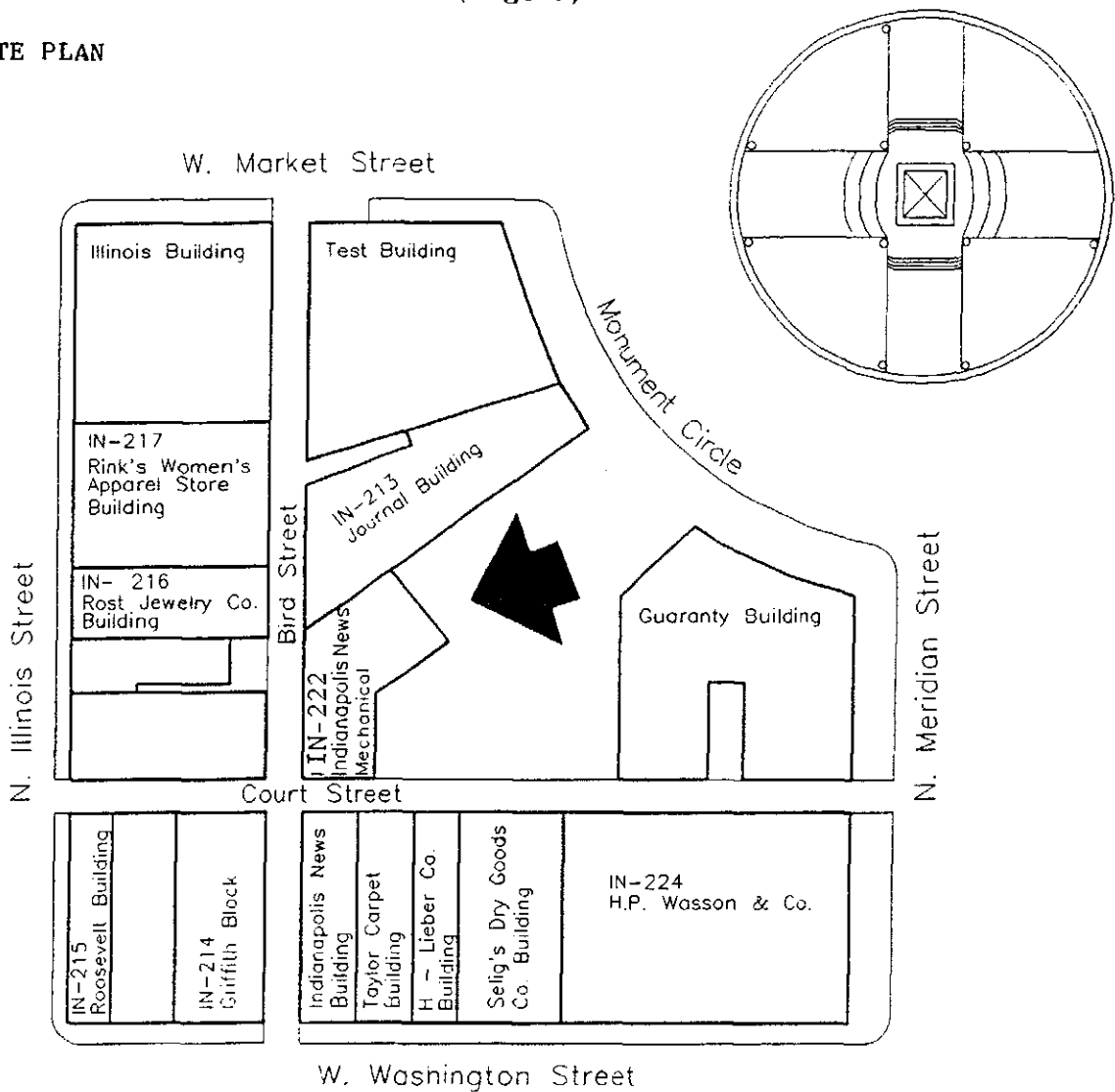
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SITE PLAN



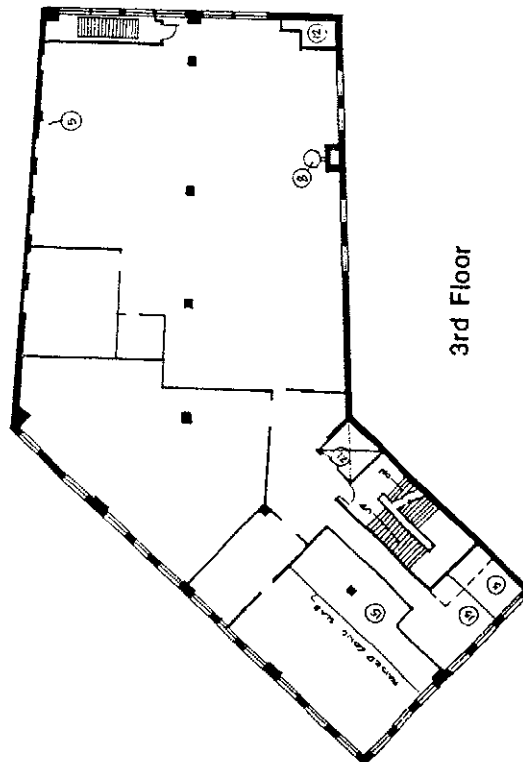
INDIANAPOLIS, IN.
CITY SQUARE 55

Indianapolis Division of Planning, 1990

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FLOOR PLAN

- LEGEND
1. AIR INTAKE/EXHAUST VENT
 2. AIR CONDENSING UNIT
 3. AIR HANDLING UNIT
 4. FAN
 5. MECHANICAL DUCT
 6. LIQUID STORAGE TANK/WATER HEATER
 7. MISC. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
 8. INCINERATION
 9. BOILER
 10. PUMPING EQUIPMENT
 11. EXTENSIVE PIPING ABOVE
 12. MECHANICAL CHASE
 13. GAS SERVICE ENTRANCE
 14. WATER SERVICE ENTRANCE
 15. RESTROOM AREA
 16. STOREFRONT WINDOW SYSTEM
 17. COLLUP ENCLOSURE (TYP.)
 18. BUILDING ELECTRICAL PANEL
 19. ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR
 20. TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT
 21. ELEVATOR (PASS. OR FREIGHT)
 22. DUMBWAITER ELEVATOR
 23. ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT
 24. LADDER
 25. COOLING TOWER



3rd Floor



PROJECT	CIRCLE CENTRE MALL	DATE:	SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"	AD4-D4
TITLE:	Indianapolis News, Mech. Building/ Goodman Warehouse	DRAWING NO.		
Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf Inc. Planning / Landscape Architecture - Architecture - Interior Design				
334 North Senate Ave. Indianapolis, Indiana 46204				
317-635 6030				

BOMO Project No. 6311



7/15/88

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS MECHANICAL/GOODMAN WAREHOUSE

A04-6